

# Business

By JERRY MARKS

**EDITORS NOTES:** Running a large city like Torrance is an expensive and complex operation. With this thought in mind the Press' business editor, Jerry Marks, in the first of a series today, will simplify Torrance government for the benefit of new as well as old residents of the city.

## Expensive Government

A city as large as Torrance, with over 1000,000 inhabitants and still growing, is big business. It takes a lot of cash and know-how to make it run properly.

Perhaps you are a newcomer to the South Bay's largest city. It's probable that your ignorant as to what form of government your city uses to conduct its affairs. If you are interested then read on. You might want to take an active role.

Torrance is run by the Council form of government. That is a total of seven men. Six councilmen and a mayor, all elected by the people, for a term of four years. Elections are held every two years, thereby making it almost impossible for the same seven men to run the city for a period of four years.

Each Councilman is paid a total of one hundred dollars a month. Sort of the "dollar a year man." This sum is also what the Mayor gets.

Every Tuesday night, either at 5:30 or 8 p.m., a Council meeting is held at the City Hall. The public is invited but seldom comes.

At these sessions, the business of the week is reviewed by the Councilmen who sometimes vote something in or out and sometimes shelve a proposal or vote indefinitely. Meeting time ranges from one hour to four depending on how much is on the agenda.

The Mayor's vote does not carry any more weight than any one of the Councilmen. His primary duty is to preside and conduct the session and keep it in order. Outside of the meeting his duties are mostly social in scope.

In Thursday's edition of the Press, Mr. Marks will discuss the duties of the City Manager.

## L. A. County Harbor Hospital Gets Construction Funds

Award of \$11,584,950 contract for construction of the advanced concept Los Angeles County Harbor General Hospital and Outpatient-Clinic was made recently by the County Board of Supervisors.

Construction is scheduled to begin this fall with completion set for October, 1962, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Location will be the easterly portion of the existing Harbor General Hospital site in the Torrance area, between Carson and 120th Sts., at Vermont Ave.

Although the County had originally budgeted \$12,400,000 for the hospital acute unit and \$1,700,000 for the clinic, the Harbor General Hospital architects were able to so design the structures that the low bid for the construction contract was 10,034,100 for the acute unit and \$1,540,850 for the clinic, a total of \$2,515,050 under the budget.

**Original Plans**  
Original plans were to use a previously passed \$12,400,000 bond issue for the acute unit and to build the clinic from money in the county's general fund. As a result of the low bid, however, both units can now be constructed from the bond issue money, leaving the general fund intact.

As developed by the architects, plans call for a fully air conditioned eight-story, 615-bed acute hospital, featuring a two-story south wing which will house one of the

largest hospital laboratory sections in the United States, and an adjoining two-story outpatient clinic equipped to handle 9000 outpatients per month.

Funds for the acute hospital were provided by a bond issue passed in November, 1956, but the project was delayed an entire year when it was determined that the more elaborate hospital originally sought, complete with residence units and maintenance buildings, would carry an excessive cost in view of the available funds.

In January, 1958, the architects were instructed to study methods of reducing the scope of the project.

**Supervisors Approve**  
Preliminary drawings which were well within the budget were completed two months ahead of schedule and approved by the Board of Supervisors in December, 1958.

Design of the 400,000-square foot acute unit is on the highly efficient central core nursing unit plan, with a service core in the center and patient rooms on the periphery. Two such self-contained units will be located on each nursing floor.

Plans call for several medical and surgical nursing units and separate nursing units for pediatrics, obstetrics and mental health. The surgical suite will contain nine operating rooms.

**Laboratory Wing**  
The adjoining two-story laboratory wing, which can be expanded to three stories

to meet future needs, will contain 24 separate laboratories, morgue and autopsy rooms, a medical library for the staff, and a branch of the Los Angeles County Library for patients.

Included will be eye, ear, nose, throat, dental, urology, orthopedic, pediatric, general medical and surgical, physical therapy, and occupational therapy clinics, providing a wide range of medical treatment through the County Department of Charities.

Parking will be provided for 1000 automobiles.

## Torrance Wins Strip Section

Through the decision of Judge Eugene P. Fay of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, Torrance has been given the right-of-way to annex the county strip which is just opposite El Camino College.

This decision ruled that the recent ordinance passed by Gardena and filed with the Secretary of State must be set aside, and all claims of Gardena on the area are null and void.

"This decision will, without a doubt, enable Torrance to go forward on plans to complete the pending annexation of the area east of Prairie Ave., south of Compton Blvd., west of Van Ness Blvd., and north of Redondo Beach Blvd., not including Alondra Park and El Camino College," Deputy City Attorney Dower said.

## L.A. Board of Education O.K. Tentative Budget

Another step in the preparation of the final budget for school year 1960-61 was taken by the Los Angeles City Board of Education June 23 with the approval of the tentative budget calling for operating expenditures of \$252,819,013, or \$2,448,117 more than the preliminary budget presented last month. To finance the school system for the coming year will require a tax rate of \$3.6106 per \$100 of assessed valuation, Superintendent of Schools Ellis A. Jarvis pointed out. This includes all funds necessary to operate the schools.

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## Bay Mower Company Given New Moto-Mower Franchise

The DuraSales Company, division of International Harvester, has announced the Bay Engine Mower Company of Redondo Beach has been awarded the Moto-Mower franchise for the entire South Bay area.

The company, located at Manhattan Beach Blvd. and Aviation Blvd., will handle sales and service for these nationally-known power mowers.

Bay engine Mower is a three-year-old firm that has been rated first in California and third in the nation among independent dealers of power mower equipment.

The owners, Fred Vanderplank and Jim White, attribute their phenomenal growth

in part to the tremendous growth of Torrance and the surrounding area.

"This area has grown to be the 12th largest city in California and our business reflects this population explosion," White said.

The firm handles sales and service for every type and brand of power equipment for lawn care including such well known makes as Toro, Pennsylvania, King O'Lawn, Lawnboy, Great American and Moto-Mower. The staff has a total of more than 25 years' experience in servicing all types of mowers.

The success of Bay Engine Mower is part of the story of the population explosion in Torrance and its impact on local and adjoining businesses.

## YES Seeks Jobs for Applicants

Yes, Y.E.S. has been successful, exclaimed Mrs. Mary Cordes, temporary coordinator for the Youth Employment Service, which was created June 20 as an agency to provide summer work for students. Mrs. Cordes is replacing Mrs. Rita Baglio, who is vacationing.

The agency, since its establishment, has placed 25 applicants in positions, some part time, some full time jobs.

Students have been placed as PBX operators, secretaries, library helpers, window washers, yard workers and baby sitters. The service also placed three boys as parking lot attendants. They are to continue in this capacity throughout the summer.

During the operation of the service, 22 students have donated their time to contribute to the project. "These volunteers work harder than if they were being paid; they are extremely interested," the coordinator mentioned.

Volunteers working on telephones and filing are Gary Hand, Marty Weekly, Barry Kaslick, Marion Hanneman, Carol Shepherd, Frances Gerber, Sue Toney, James Jensen, Michael Mullin and Doug Brown.

Other workers donating their services are Larry Dearing, Ruth Galloway, David Schwartz, Paul Anthony, Richard Moore, Judy Schafer, Frances Miller, Judy Hannah, Penny Brannon, Gracie Connett, Niki Daniels and Mike Sargent.

In an effort to interest prospective employers, the organization has begun a drive to publicize the project. "We just don't have enough job orders, people aren't aware of us," Mrs. Cordes said.

The campaign includes distribution of pamphlets to local merchants telling of the agency and mailing of postcards to city residents.

It was revealed by Mrs. Cordes that among the tremendous number of applicants looking for work for the summer college students and school teachers are enrolled.

The office is located at 2007 Carson St. and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The agency can be reached at FAirfax 0-1361.



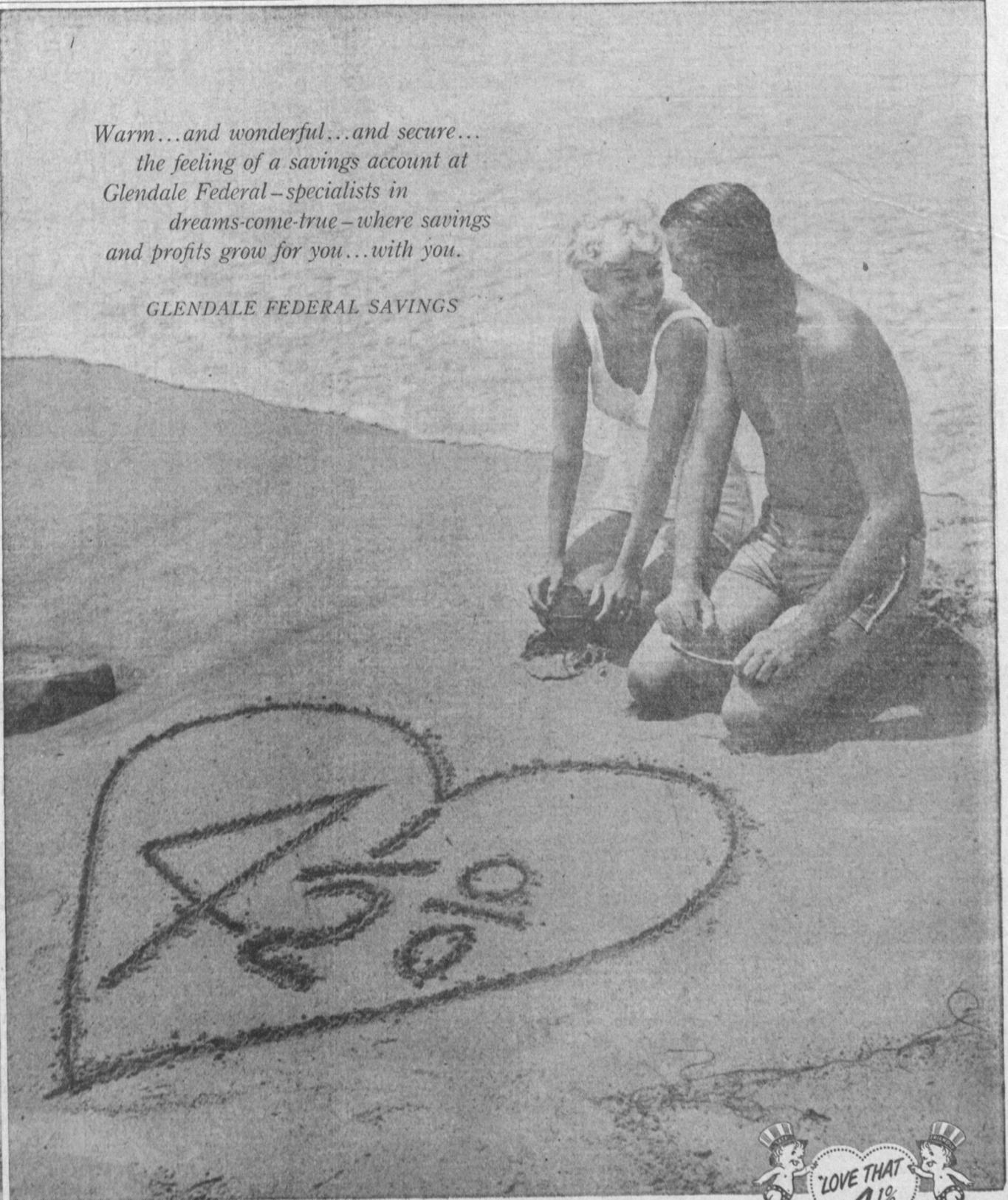
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